



THE MASTER'S FOUNDATION

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Dear Ministry Partner,

We are pleased to send you our Fall newsletter. As you read the comments and news items and view some of the many pictures taken during our recent trip to Ukraine, you will have a sense of the need there is in this distressed nation. As I spent time with our partners, I returned with a greater conviction of how important the work of Masters Foundation has become to those who have experienced and continue to experience the ravages of war and its far-reaching impact.

We gathered our ministry partners together in Ternopil to hear their stories and to encourage their hearts. I believe this group of about 25 dedicated leaders have been led to us by the Lord. There is something deeply moving and encouraging to be sitting with a group of ordinary men and women doing extra ordinary things for the people in Ukraine. In the middle of an almost 3-year war, I caught a sense of the fatigue that many were feeling but mostly and more importantly, their determination to “keep on going” in their ministry efforts. Each of them shared what it was like to carry out their work under the cloud of war and spoke of their appreciation for the help coming from Canada. With tears in their eyes, they stood and thanked everyone.

It is your giving that is solely the means by which this work is done. Your giving helps orphanages, provides food for distribution, supports children who suffer from PTSD, provides clothing for our “Children of Victory” program, supports ministry to incarcerated women, enables evangelism through radio broadcasts, summer camps for children, education and training for pastors. Our partners and the people who receive our support are very aware of the giving and the sacrifice on your part that allows for these ministries to take place. I am reminded of Jesus’ words in Matt.25:35-36, 40 “And the King will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

Thank you for your continued support. Winter fast approaches and with it comes the difficulty of staying warm. Children need warm clothing, elderly need medication and a warm place to live. With the infrastructure being continually bombarded, villages and apartment buildings being hit or

demolished, the refugees continue to arrive from these places or due to the circumstances have been ordered to evacuate their homes. With their spouses fighting at the front lines, mothers are barely coping as they attempt to keep their children safe. Our support is vital!

Thank you for your continued support. We appreciate each gift. May God bless you.

Sincerely



Gene Clarke – President



A memorial to the fallen
(includes 12 Canadians)



Line up for food and clothing in a western
city of Ukraine



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FALL 2024

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Receive our news in your inbox!
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A sweet treat for one of the special needs girls



Praying with a soldier

BRINGING HOPE, LIFE & SALVATION

UKRAINE TRIP – FALL 2024

As I sit back and think of my recent trip to Ukraine my mind is flooded with memories and experiences too numerous to fit on this page. I am so grateful that God granted me an opportunity to witness His goodness and blessing in immeasurable ways.

We started off with a 2-day retreat where we gathered all our partners and their families in a quieter region of the country. It was an encouraging time of sharing, fellowship and prayer, where our partners were finally able to meet each other for the first time. What a privilege it was getting to know the hearts of those we partner with.

Then the cross-country journey began. I travelled over 3000km to see our partners in action. We visited various children's programs and orphanages. It was very moving to see them ministering with such kindness and a genuine love. If only for a brief time, they helped these precious little ones forget the horrid sounds of war.

In various parts of the country, we held outreach gatherings where we shared a message of hope and peace with God. There were many who chose to make a personal commitment to Christ. Now they truly have hope for a future! During these events we handed out over 550 food hampers to meet their material needs as well. One of the highlights was to feed internally displaced people in a city park. Serving borscht and buckwheat, I experienced it all. Each day I was continually impressed with the strength and bravery of our partners and volunteers.



Walt helps with the street feeding



A rehab center MF supports

I think of Artem living in a region of Ukraine that is constantly being bombarded. After spending some incredible time with him as we were driving out of the city we were visually reminded of the war. Two battle tanks pulled out in front of us and led the way out. Tragically, the day after we left the region, a hospital was hit and 10 people were killed. The horror of war continues.

Olena is another hero of mine. She stood up to invaders while protecting and working with autistic children. Together with her team, daily they are trying to keep their children's lives as calm and normal as possible under the constant sounds of sirens and explosions; an almost impossible task given the circumstances, but they persevere.

These are just a couple of our partners who live in the so called "hot zone". All over the country our partners are busy caring for so many vulnerable people affected by this war. During moments of calm, and as we drove around the country, I wondered if there really is a war going on. Then the sirens and burned and bombed out buildings remind us once again of the brutal realities of this unjust ongoing war. There is no normalizing this situation. The effects it's having on people cannot be hidden.

During this trip I have first-hand witnessed the effects this war is having on a vulnerable people. I can truly say ,now ,like never before, Masters Foundation needs your help. The needs are only getting greater. With your generosity we can all help do our small part keeping Ukrainians warm and fed this coming winter season. Will you partner with us in helping bring hope and help to Ukraine?

- written by Walt Semeniuk

SUMMER CAMPS 2024

Children & youth have always been a priority with Masters Foundation. Each year we support our partners who organize these summer events. This year was no exception! Joyful children, delighted parents experienced an event not soon forgotten. Committed leaders put much effort into ensuring that participants actively engage in sports events, music, crafts, Bible story sessions, discussion etc. Despite power outages, extreme heat and the current war, camps were held in the western area of Ukraine.

One of our projects included the transport of children from the front-line zone in Sumy Region to join a camp in the west. The logistics of securing a bus, of finding a driver willing to make the 10-hour trip and delivering 30 very weary children to their destination to join another 40 was challenging indeed.

Here are some testimonies of those directly involved, **Dear Masters Foundation. Thank you very much for your support for our children's camp in this very difficult year of 2024. Our team ministered to all these children who received psychological, emotional and spiritual support. The children lived on the shore of the lake, played camp games, quad biked, participated in water battles, sang songs and danced together. The camp was held in a forest near the lake. This was an additional extreme because there was no internet. "Aah, but this is 2024!" they cried. However, when it was time to go home, the children cried and didn't want to leave. Everything went great! The main thing is that at least for a brief time, the children completely forgot about the war. They are all waiting for Camp 2025!*

**The camp program was designed to teach children how to make friends and to handle conflict wisely. During the three days, they had the opportunity to earn camp money and spend it later. They could earn it through competitions, but most earnings happened during the Bible story sessions where each day a Biblical hero was discussed – faithful friendships, gentle words to calm difficult situations, the consequences of anger and the importance of peace.*

**The children prayed for good weather and that power outages would not disrupt the program. God heard the children's prayers, and all the outages occurred during the lunch breaks.*

**D is a 13-year-old from a village 12 km from the border. Five KAB's fell 50 meters from his house. Two police and several civilians were killed. The boy distinguishes when the projectile comes and when it hits. One day he heard a rocket flying, he managed to jump out into the corridor, fall to the floor and wait for the explosion. He tells everything in such detail. How long does it take for a child to completely forget about this horror. D is very grateful for the camp. He completely forgot about the war during camp, he rested, renewed and we prayed together.*

**N is a girl from M, Sumy region. A very positive girl, but so silent. I think this is because of the constant attacks and the sounds of drones and missiles. Children call these "witches". I asked why that name? "Because when it flies it is very scary!"*

she replied. N loved the camp very much because she felt calm and protected. "When I am at home and scared, I pray to God and then peace comes" she said. She would like for her whole family to be in camp with her.

**Thank you for providing financial assistance so that we could host this camp for 71 teens. The children were able to get positive emotions, impressions and be distracted from the turbulent times of the war. Most importantly, they heard the message of the gospel. Our work with these teens continues with monthly meetings.*



OTHER MINISTRY EVENTS

MASTERS FOUNDATION CONTINUES TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN AID TO VULNERABLE PEOPLE...

From a pastor's wife: My husband and our three small children live near the border with our attacker. Since the war began there has been so much work to be done. People in our city know what it's like to go to bed and not wake up because a rocket or drone flew into their house. Many have left for other cities, but we have a responsibility to care for those that the Lord has entrusted to us. Every Sunday we go to several villages that are close to the border with the Word of God, humanitarian and psychological assistance to the people and the children. I fervently pray for my husband and the dedicated team, that the Lord would bring them back alive. Our family is this dedicated team that respects, appreciates and supports each other.

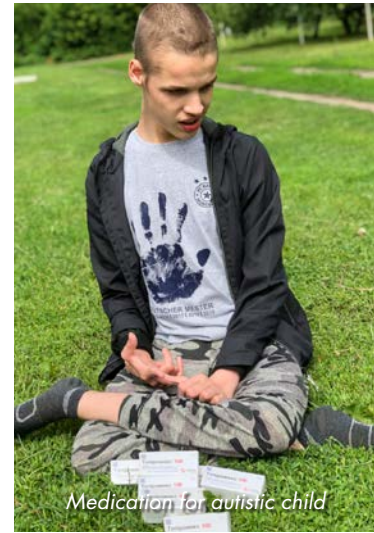
From a mother: There are very disturbing days and nights when your heart is pounding with fear for them, when you hear missiles, shaheds. You see them being brought down; you hug the children as if you are protecting them with your own body, but we know that this will not save us if the Lord does not protect us.

From a leader in charge of a children's group: Unfortunately, the situation here has become more critical. We can barely sleep at night because we hear drones and missiles flying over and then explosions. We and the children come to this center feeling unrested, nervous and anxious. With many sirens and alerts and high risk of danger, we must hide in shelters areas much of the time. Please keep us in your prayers!

From a ministry leader: After the service, up to 50 displaced people stay for tea and sweets. We take this opportunity to speak with them and pray for their needs. Some of the stories of the people who were forced to move from the war zones are shocking, tearful and desperate. They have lost absolutely everything. One woman is from the Donetsk area. Her only son is missing. Her home was destroyed. We believe that the Lord comforts such people. God cares for Ukraine through MF!



Visiting a rehab centre for amputees



Medication for autistic child



Special needs girls receive fruit



Street feeding



Teens sing to village elderly

Master's Foundation will be at the Bonnyville Pentecostal Church on Sunday December 8th, 2024.